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Page: 1

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Case Number: 200000044

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 06309 242245Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 NEA-10 ORM-02 IO-13 AID-05 SCS-03
SCA-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01
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P 242200Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7287

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 6309

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ROUND-UP

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 5844, (B) BUENOS AIRES 5979,
(C) BUENOS AIRES 5954

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

~~Exemption(s):~~ () In Part (☒) Full DECONTROL

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

1. UCR POLITICIANS HIPOLITO SOLARI IRIGOYEN AND MARIO ABEL AMAYA ARE NOW BEING OFFICIALLY HELD BY EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY UNDER STAGE OF SIEGE, SOURCES REPORT. PREVIOUSLY THE TWO WERE BEING HELD FOR "QUESTIONING" IN A MILITARY GARRISON, FOLLOWING THEIR KIDNAPPING AND REAPPEARANCE AUGUST 30. FORMER ECONOMY MINISTER ANTONIO CAFIERO IS ALSO UNDER DETENTION AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE IN BUENOS AIRES, DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE WAS EXONERATED THREE WEEKS AGO OF ANY IRREGULARITIES IN A STATE-OWNED WINERY WHILE HE WAS INTERVENTOR IN MENDOZA.

2. IN THE PAST WEEK'S ONLY REPORTED ATTACK AGAINST A JEWISH ESTABLISHMENT, THE ARGENTINE HEBRAIC SOCIETY WAS HIT BY A BOMB THROWN FROM A MOVING CAR SEPT. 21. THE NUMBER OF REPORTED ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS HAS FALLEN OFF CONSIDERABLY SINCE A RASH OF BOMBING ATTACKS IN LATE AUGUST AND EARLY

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1976BUENOS06309

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

[REDACTED]
PAGE 02 BUENOS 06309 242245Z

SEPTEMBER. GOA BANNED SOME ANTI-SEMITIC PUBLICATIONS AND CLOSED THE PRO-NAZI EDITORIAL MILICIA SEPT. 14 (SEE REF B).

3. SEVEN PERUVIAN STUDENTS RETURNED TO PERU SEPT. 17 AND ANOTHER FIVE ON SEPT. 19 FOLLOWING DEATH THREATS ADDRESSED TO 23 PERUVIAN STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LA PLATA IN LATE AUGUST (SEE REF C). GOA ANNOUNCED SEPT. 14 THAT ALL FOREIGN STUDENTS WOULD BE COUNTED BETWEEN OCT. 4-8 TO ASCERTAIN THEIR STUDENT STATUS.

4. REFUGEES CONTINUE TO LEAVE ARGENTINA, MOST OF THEM URUGUAYANS, CHILEANS AND PARAGUAYANS DESTINED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN EUROPE. FIFTEEN LEFT FOR SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND ON SEPT. 19; ANOTHER NINETEEN WENT TO PARIS, GENEVA AND VIENNA ON SEPT. 23. THE UNHCR DIRECTOR TOLD EMBOFFS SEPT. 13 THAT THE RESETTLEMENT EFFORT IS PROGRESSING WELL, BUT THAT HE FEARS THAT WHEN EUROPE FULFILLS ITS OFFERED QUOTAS, MANY REFUGEES WILL BE LEFT BEHIND IN ARGENTINA. SWEDEN AND DENMARK, HE SAID, HAVE SENT SPECIAL IMMIGRATION PERSONNEL TO BUENOS AIRES TO REVIEW SELECTED CASES. THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT HE HAS SOUGHT ASSURANCES FROM ARGENTINE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS THAT THE RECENT REQUIREMENT FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS TO REGISTER WITH ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES BY EARLY NOVEMBER WILL NOT BE USED AGAINST REFUGEES. MANY OF THE REFUGEES ARE AFRAID OF IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES TO ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES, HE SAID, DESPITE UNHCR EFFORTS TO HAVE THEM COMPLY WITH THE NEW LAW.

5. MEANWHILE, DIVERSE GROUPS CONTINUE TO PRESS THE GOVERNMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS CASES. THE ARGENTINE ACTORS ASSOCIATION SEPT. 21 ISSUED A STATEMENT DEMANDING AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FOUR OF ITS MEMBERS, WHO DISAPPEARED SEPARATELY IN RECENT WEEKS. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ON SEPT. 20 URGED PRESIDENT VIDELA TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES THAT URUGUAYAN SECURITY OFFICIALS HAD KIDNAPPED URUGUAYAN CITIZENS IN BUENOS AIRES AND DEMANDED RANSOMS FOR THEIR RELEASE. THE ALLEGATION WAS MADE BY AN URUGUAYAN CITIZEN RECENTLY ARRIVED IN SWEDEN FROM ARGENTINA WHO CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN RANSOM DEMANDS.

[REDACTED]
Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1976BUENOS06309

Page: 3

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

[REDACTED]
PAGE 03 BUENOS 06309 242245Z

6. THE POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY SENT TELEGRAMS SEPT. 22 TO PRESIDENT VIDELA AND THE INTERIOR MINISTRY APPEALING FOR THE RELEASE OF 70-YEAR-OLD FORMER DEPUTY PABLO LEGARRAGA, WHO HAS BEEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN A MILITARY PRISON IN BAHIA BLANCA. GOA PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE UCR THREE WEEKS AGO FOR DISOBEYING THE BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY ISSUING A STATEMENT IN THE NAME OF THE PARTY ON BEHALF OF SOLARI IRIGOYEN AND AMAYA (SEE PARA ONE).

7. AT ITS ASSEMBLY IN CORRIENTES, THE ARGENTINE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION (ADEPA) YESTERDAY (SEPT. 23) AGAIN STRONGLY APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT TO RESTORE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN SPITE OF "THE CLOSURES, THREATS, ATTACKS AND KIDNAPPINGS". ADEPA PRESIDENT JUAN VALMAGGIA ALSO SAID THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA HAD ACKNOWLEDGED EARLIER ADEPA PLEAS ON BEHALF OF MISSING AND ARBITRARILY DETAINED JOURNALISTS AND SAID HE WOULD PASS ON THE INFORMATION TO "APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES". IN A RELATED CASE, THE CORDOBA PAPER LOS PRINCIPIOS REAPPEARED TODAY AFTER 12 DAYS CLOSURE. THE PAPER WAS OFFICIALLY SHUT DOWN FOR SIX DAYS FOR CRITICIZING EXCESSIVE MILITARY BUDGETS AND REFUSED TO PUBLISH FOR ANOTHER SIX IN PROTEST OF THE ARREST OF SEVEN OF ITS JOURNALISTS. THREE REMAIN DETAINED AT DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE. CORRIENTES NEWSPAPER EPOCA REMAINS SHUT SINCE SEPT. 3.

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED